

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re the Application of:

**J. Douglas Birdwell, et al.**

Serial No.: TBA;  
DIV of 09/671,304

Filed: Herewith

For: METHOD OF PARTITIONING  
DATA RECORDS (AMENDED)

Atty. Docket No.: 004842.00003

Group Art Unit: TBA

Examiner: TBA

Confirmation No.: TBA

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Honorable Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

Applicants respectfully request that the following amendments be entered prior to an action on the merits:

**Amendments to the Specification** begin on page 2 of this paper.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the Listing of Claims, which begins on page 3 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 6 of this paper.